

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cutter comprising a Ni-Cr alloy containing from 32 to 44 mass percent of Cr, from 2.3 to 6 mass percent of Al, the balance being Ni, impurities, and additional trace elements and having a Rockwell C hardness of 52 or more, and wherein the chromium is partly replaced with at least one element selected from Zr, Hf, V, Ta, Mo, W and Nb, the total replacement ratio of Zr, Hf, V and Nb is greater than zero and less than or equal to one mass percent or less, the replacement ratio of Ta is greater than zero and less than or equal to two mass percent or less, and the total replacement ratio of Mo and W is greater than zero and less than or equal to 10 mass percent or less.
2. (Currently Amended) A cutter comprising a Ni-Cr alloy containing from 32 to 44 mass percent of Cr, from 2.3 to 6 mass percent of Al, the balance being Ni, impurities, and additional trace elements and having a Rockwell C hardness of 52 or more, and wherein the total replacement ratio of a plurality of the elements represented by a formula $(Zr+Hf+V+Nb) \times 10 + Ta \times 5 + (Mo+W)$ is greater than zero and less than or equal to 10 mass percent or less, wherein the name of elements Zr, Hf, Ta, Mo, W and Nb represents the replacement ratio of each element, the elements partly replacing the chromium.
3. (Currently Amended) A cutter comprising a Ni-Cr alloy containing from 32 to 44 mass percent of Cr, from 2.3 to 6 mass percent of Al, the balance being Ni, impurities, and additional trace elements and having a Rockwell C hardness of 52 or more, and wherein the aluminum is partly replaced with greater than zero and less than or equal to 1.2 mass percent or less of Ti.
4. (Currently Amended) A cutter comprising a Ni-Cr alloy containing from 32 to 44 mass percent of Cr, from 2.3 to 6 mass percent of Al, the balance being Ni, impurities, and additional trace elements and having a Rockwell C hardness of 52 or more, and wherein the nickel is partly replaced with greater than zero and less than or equal to 5 mass percent or less of Fe.

5. (Currently Amended) A cutter comprising a Ni-Cr alloy containing from 32 to 44 mass percent of Cr, from 2.3 to 6 mass percent of Al, the balance being Ni, impurities, and additional trace elements and having a Rockwell C hardness of 52 or more, and wherein the Ni-Cr alloy further comprises:

greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.1 mass percent ~~or less~~ of C;
greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.05 mass percent ~~or less~~ of Mn;
greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.005 mass percent ~~or less~~ of P;
greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.005 mass percent ~~or less~~ of O;
greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.003 mass percent ~~or less~~ of S;
greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.02 mass percent ~~or less~~ of Cu; and
greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.05 mass percent ~~or less~~ of Si; as the

impurities and the additional trace elements,

the total content of P, O, and S is greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.01 mass percent ~~or less~~, and the total content of Mn, Cu, and Si is greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.05 mass percent ~~or less~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A cutter comprising a Ni-Cr alloy containing from 32 to 44 mass percent of Cr, from 2.3 to 6 mass percent of Al, the balance being Ni, impurities, and additional trace elements and having a Rockwell C hardness of 52 or more, and wherein the Ni-Cr alloy further comprises:

greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.025 mass percent ~~or less~~ of Mg;
greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.02 mass percent ~~or less~~ of Ca;
greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.03 mass percent ~~or less~~ of B; and
greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.02 mass percent ~~or less~~ of rare earth elements including Y; as the impurities and the additional trace elements, and the total content of Mg, Ca, and B is greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.03 mass percent, and ~~or less~~ (but when the total content of Mg, Ca, and B is 0.015 mass percent or more, the total content of P, O, and S is greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.003 mass percent ~~or less~~ and the total content of Mn, Cu and Si is greater than zero and less than or equal to 0.03 mass percent ~~or less~~).

7. (Currently Amended) The cutter according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the Ni-Cr alloy comprises a texture ~~wherein three phases including an~~ comprising a mixture of a Cr-rich α phase that is a Cr-rich phase, a Ni-rich phase γ phase that is a Ni-rich phase, and [(a)] an intermetallic compound phase composed of Ni₃Al as the basic composition γ phase that is an intermetallic compound phase composed of Ni₃Al as the basic composition are mixed.

8. (Previously Presented) The cutter according to claim 1, wherein the Ni-Cr alloy has an average grain size of 1 mm or less.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled)